

Dear Friends,

November 26, 2010

“Over the last two years, I’ve had the awesome experience of leading my roommates to Christ,” Lauren told me when I met her a year ago. She told me about her spiritual journey and her heart for others. God was so clearly at work in her life – using her to bring her friends to know Jesus. God was also working under the surface and we spent much of the fall semester last year watching as the Lord began to unravel big questions that Lauren had deep in her heart about the Grace of God.

For me, it was a lot like watching a small child learn to ride a bike with her father holding onto the back of the seat as she pedals. At first, the girl keeps looking back to see if her father is really there and not going to let go. Then she starts to pedal a few steps and hops off the bike. “I don’t know if I can do this,” she says. Then she gets back on, pedals a few more steps, and gains confidence. She trusts the love and grace of her father. Lauren walked by faith; she dared to let Him lead her to places in her relationship with him that she was initially scared to go to. It’s been so fun to watch Lauren trust the love and Grace of her heavenly Father.

Now, Lauren’s a senior. As I sat with her for our discipleship time, she leaned over and whispered, “I think that I’m supposed to spend next year doing missions overseas. But I’m Scared!” She is heading to the Middle East next fall with a team of recent graduates to spend a year journeying spiritually with Muslim students as they explore the person of Christ. She is scared, but she knows that her Eternal Father is holding onto the back of her bike seat.



Brian and I are overjoyed with how the Father has been working in our hearts too. And we’re excited for what he is calling us to next. We can hardly believe that in February, we will get to hold our baby girl. I feel a bit like Lauren learning to ride a bike; I keep turning back to make sure that the Father is still right there as we get closer to meeting our baby girl face to face. But even as we prepare for the life change that’s coming our way as we become parents, we’re also preparing for another big adventure. This summer with a 3 month old in tow, we’ll be leading a team of students and staff from Boston to the Middle East (like Lauren). We’ll spend 6 weeks giving our students a taste of international missions and pray they’ll return with a new heart for their friends and for the world.

At first blush, it seems crazy: we’re pregnant, we’ll have a newborn, and we’ll travelling thousands of miles away to join people on their spiritual journey and point them toward Jesus. But as we’ve sought the Lord, he’s continued to direct us onward every step of the way. Just like Lauren, we’re learning that our Father will never let us go. We continue to pedal forward in faith as he continues to lead and direct us as a family.

We’re so thankful for you, our support family. Your prayers and financial support have allowed us to share the gospel with thousands of students over the past decade. As we look forward over the next year, we’re praying for the Lord to provide the support we need to care for our new daughter and to take a team to the Middle East this summer:

- Baby related medical costs will be around \$5,000.
- Taking our family to the Middle East to share the gospel will be about \$10,000.

Would you consider a special gift of \$100, \$500, \$1,000 or some other amount to help us advance the gospel here in Boston and around the world? If the Lord leads, you can give online at www.brianandmalisa.com/give.php Your sacrificial gifts and prayers let us continue to see students like Lauren learn to ride. Loving our Adventurous Lord,